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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Letter dated 25 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the final declaration of the fifteenth Forum of Cuban Civil Society Organizations against the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, adopted in Havana on 12 October 2018 (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43.

(*Signed*) Anayansi **Rodríguez Camejo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 25 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Final declaration of the fifteenth Forum of Cuban Civil Society Organizations against the Blockade

Havana, 12 October 2018

We, the representatives of Cuban civil society organizations, with the support of regional and international organizations with headquarters in Cuba, social actors and organizations, and religious, fraternal and national institutions, meeting at the fifteenth Forum of Cuban Civil Society Organizations against the Blockade, have agreed to:

1. Reaffirm the action taken against the Government of the United States of America for maintaining the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on our country, a policy that is still entirely in place and being fully implemented.

2. Support the demand of the Government of Cuba that the blockade be lifted by the Government of the United States in a unilateral and unconditional manner, respecting the norms of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. Condemn the tightening of the blockade that resulted from the signing by President Donald Trump in June 2017 of the National Security Presidential Memorandum on Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba and the rules and regulations issued in November 2017 by the Department of the Treasury, the Department of State and the Department of Commerce of the United States, which have imposed additional restrictions on the limited opportunities for the United States business sector in Cuba and have further restricted the right of United States citizens to travel to the island.

4. Reaffirm the right to self-determination of the Cuban people in building their own political, economic and social system, without external interference, and to express our determination to continue building a socialist, prosperous, sustainable, independent and sovereign homeland.

5. Reiterate that the blockade constitutes a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of all Cuban men and women and qualifies as an act of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, and that it is an act of war under the Declaration of London of 1905.

6. Emphasize that the blockade is an obstacle to international cooperation and a substantial hindrance to the right to development of the Cuban people, resulting in shortages and suffering for Cuban families, with a significant humanitarian impact, particularly in the area of health; as well as being a barrier to the free movement of academics, scientists and experts for greater knowledge-sharing in various areas of cooperation.

7. Draw attention to the fact that the blockade hinders the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. Demand a halt to the tracking of Cuban international economic and financial relations with entities in third countries, which attests to the extraterritorial scope of the blockade policy.

9. Call upon United States citizens and counterpart organizations in the United States to maintain their support for the Cuban people in order to bring an end to this obsolete and unjust policy, which affects the normal development of relations between our peoples.

10. Recognize the role of Cuban solidarity movements and non-governmental organizations around the world in condemning the blockade, and to thank them for their support of the Cuban people's demand for an immediate end to this hostile policy.

11. Support the submission, at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, of the draft resolution "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" and to call for the international community to support this noble cause.